

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2609

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2001

Mr. LAFALCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Resources

---

## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Niagara Falls National  
5       Heritage Area Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2       the Secretary of the Interior.

3           (2) STUDY AREA.—

4                (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “study area”  
5       means the segment of the Niagara River in Ni-  
6       agara County, New York, that extends from Ni-  
7       agara Falls to the mouth of the Niagara River  
8       at Lake Ontario.

9                (B) INCLUSION.—The term “study area”  
10      includes land in any municipality that is adja-  
11      cent to the Niagara River in Niagara County,  
12      New York.

13   **SEC. 3. NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.**

14       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
15      study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing a  
16      heritage area in the State of New York to be known as  
17      the “Niagara Falls National Heritage Area”.

18       (b) ANALYSES AND DOCUMENTATION.—The study  
19      shall include analysis and documentation of whether the  
20      study area—

21               (1) contains an assemblage of natural, histor-  
22      ical, scenic, and cultural resources that represent  
23      distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United  
24      States that—

1 (A) are worthy of recognition, conserva-  
2 tion, interpretation, and continued use; and

3 (B) would best be managed—

4 (i) through partnerships among public  
5 and private entities; and

6 (ii) by combining diverse and some-  
7 times noncontiguous resources and active  
8 communities;

9 (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and  
10 folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the  
11 United States;

12 (3) provides outstanding opportunities to con-  
13 serve natural, historical, scenic, or cultural features;

14 (4) provides outstanding recreational and edu-  
15 cational opportunities;

16 (5) contains resources important to the identi-  
17 fied theme of the study area that retain a degree of  
18 integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

19 (6) includes residents, business interests, non-  
20 profit organizations, and State and local govern-  
21 ments that—

22 (A) are involved in planning a national  
23 heritage area;

24 (B) have developed a conceptual financial  
25 plan for a national heritage area that outlines

1 the roles for all participants, including the Fed-  
2 eral Government; and

3 (C) have demonstrated support for the  
4 concept of a national heritage area;

5 (7) has a potential management entity to work  
6 in partnership with residents, business interests,  
7 nonprofit organizations, and State and local govern-  
8 ments to develop a national heritage area consistent  
9 with continued State and local economic activity;  
10 and

11 (8) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-  
12 ported by the public.

13 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the  
14 Secretary shall consult with—

15 (1) State and local agencies; and

16 (2) interested organizations within the study  
17 area.

18 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 fiscal year after the  
19 date on which funds are made available to carry out this  
20 Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Re-  
21 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
22 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate  
23 a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and rec-  
24 ommendations of the study under subsection (a).

1       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$300,000.

○